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LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I wish to refer to the letter dated 8 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, addressed to you, containing his Government's request that the current mandate of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (UNPOB) be extended by a further 12 months. The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea has also written to me along similar lines.

I am gratified to note that the new Government of Papua New Guinea, headed by Prime Minister Sir Mekere Morauta, continues to make the settlement of the Bougainville crisis a priority. During his visit to New York for the current session of the General Assembly, Sir Michael Somare, the Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea, reaffirmed the commitment of the Government to implement the Lincoln Agreement and reiterated the importance of the continued United Nations presence in the peace process. The Security Council should also be aware that all the Bougainvillean parties have expressed their support for the efforts of UNPOB to move the peace process forward.

It would therefore be my intention to extend the presence of UNPOB by a further 12 months so that it might continue to perform the functions spelled out in the Lincoln Agreement and assist in the promotion of political dialogue among the parties to the Agreement.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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